

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 24, 2002. Claims 20, 26, and 36-45 are presented for examination. Claims 1-19, 21-25, and 27-35 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. New Claims 36-45 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 20 and 26, the only claims in independent form, have been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claim 25 and the indication that Claims 8-11 include allowable subject matter. Those claims have been canceled, and at least some of the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into the claims presented for examination.

The Office Action objected to the drawings, and states that Fig. 1 should be designated as prior art. Submitted herewith is a Letter Submitting Corrected Drawing, in which Fig. 1 is labeled --PRIOR ART--. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objected to the specification for certain informalities. Applicants have carefully reviewed and amended the specification, as deemed necessary, with special attention to the points raised in section 2 of the Office Action. Applicants submit that the informalities have been corrected, and respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

The Office Action states that the "information disclosure statement filed

12/06/99 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each U.S. and foreign patent; each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed." The Office Action also states that the information referred to in the information disclosure statement has not been considered, but has been placed in the application file. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider his position for at least the following reasons.

Applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) on October 6, 1999 (not December 6, 1999), as indicated on the attached copy of the printout from the PAIR database of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The IDS cites ten (10) copending U.S. patent applications, and does not cite any other information for consideration by the Examiner. At the time the IDS was filed, there was no requirement to submit copies of copending U.S. patent applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, and a simple identification of such applications was deemed sufficient. Thus, Applicants submit that the IDS is in full compliance with the prevailing rules at the time it was submitted.^{1/} Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request consideration of the information cited in the IDS submitted on October 6, 1999.

Claims 1, 2, 31, 32, 34, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first or second paragraphs. Cancellation of those claims renders the rejections moot.

Claims 20-23 and 26-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S.P.A.P. 2001/0042142 (Fukunaga et al.). Claims 1, 3-7, 12-19, 24, 30, and 33

^{1/} Applicants note that the changes to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, amending the rules therein to their present form, took effect on September 20, 2000, after the IDS was submitted.

were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukunaga et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,133,938 (James). Cancellation of Claims 1-19, 21-25, and 27-35 renders their rejections moot. Applicants submit that independent Claims 20 and 26, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from Fukunaga et al. for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 20 is directed to a data communication system with a controller adapted to set a logical connection between a source node and one or more destination nodes. The source node is adapted to transfer object data asynchronously using the logical connection, and each of the one or more destination nodes is adapted to receive the object data using the logical connection. Each destination node informs the source node of initial information required for an initial setting for transfer of the object data.

Fukunaga et al. relates to an image transmission system in which an image providing device and a printer are connected by a 1394 serial bus. Nothing in Fukunaga et al. is believed to teach or suggest a data communication system in which a source node is connected to one or more destination nodes by a logical connection, wherein "the source node is adapted to transfer object data asynchronously using the logical connection," and wherein "each of the one or more destination nodes informs the source node of initial information required for an initial setting for transfer of the object data," as recited in Claim 20.

As mentioned above, Claim 8 has been deemed to include allowable subject matter. The present Amendment amends independent Claim 20 to incorporate the essential subject matter of Claim 8. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 20 is not anticipated by Fukunaga et al., and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

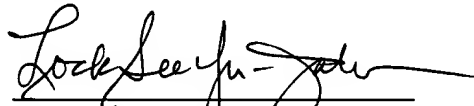
Independent Claim 26 is a method claim corresponding to Claim 20, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

The other claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO SPECIFICATION

The paragraph located on page 2 at lines 14-21 has been amended as follows:

--The PC 102 includes an exclusive digital I/O unit 110 for connecting the PC 102 to the digital camera 101, an operation unit 111 including a keyboard and a [mouth] mouse, a decoding unit 112 for effecting decoding by expanding the compressed image data, a display 113, a hard disc 114, a memory 115 such as a RAM, an MPU 116, a PCI [buss] bus 117, and an SCSI interface 118 for connecting the PC 102 to the printer 103.--

The paragraph located on page 59 at lines 11-25 has been amended as follows:

--Now, in the illustrated embodiment, as is in the first embodiment, for example, the computer having the 1394 interface 14 will be explained as a controller 1600, the [VDCR] DVCR 28 having the 1394 interface 44 will be explained as a source node 1602, and the printer 60 having the 1394 interface 62 will be explained as a destination node 1603. Incidentally, in Fig. 2, while an example that the communication system is constituted by three communication apparatuses was explained, the present invention is not limited to such an example. For example, a communication system in which a plurality of computers 10, DVCRs 28 and printers 60 are connected may be used, and the communication apparatus constituting the destination node 1603 is not limited to one.--

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 have been canceled.

20. (Amended) A data communication system comprising:

a controller [for setting new logical connection relationships] adapted to set a logical connection between a source node and one or more destination nodes[;], wherein

[a] the source node [for transferring] is adapted to transfer object data [divided into one or more segments in an asynchronous transferring by] asynchronously using [one of] the logical connection [relationships; and],

each of the one or more destination nodes [for discriminating] is adapted to receive the object data using the logical connection [relationship and for receiving the object data], and

each of the one or more destination nodes informs the source node of initial information required for an initial setting for transfer of the object data.

Claims 21-25 have been canceled.

26. (Amended) A data communication method comprising steps of:

setting [new] a logical connection [relationships] between a source node and one or more destination nodes;

transferring object data [divided into one or more segments in an asynchronous
transferring by] asynchronously using [one of] the logical connection [relationships; and
discriminating the logical connection relationship and receiving];
receiving the object data using the logical connection; and
informing the source node of initial information required for an initial setting for
transfer of the object data.

Claims 27-35 have been canceled.